Mountain State Reporter

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APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during April 2008 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was up 19 percent from April 2007 and up 6 percent from March 2008 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 681,000 pounds live weight, up 29 percent from April 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,146 pounds, was up 72 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 151,000 pounds live weight, up 12 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 262 pounds, was down 4 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.30 billion pounds in April, up 14 percent from the 3.75 billion pounds produced in April 2007.

Beef production, at 2.25 billion pounds, was 12 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, up 10 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.9 million pounds, 1 percent above April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 73,300 head, up 29 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 70 pounds from last year, at 278 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.02 billion pounds, up 18 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.99 million head, up 18 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was up 2 percent from April 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 221,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from April a year ago.

January to April 2008 commercial red meat production was 16.8 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 13 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

April 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. April 2008 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 7.38 billion during April 2008, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.28 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2008 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. **April egg production** per 100 layers was 2,164 eggs, up slightly from April 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2008 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2008, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from May 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2008 totaled 41.1 million, up 5 percent from April 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 39.6 million on May 1, 2008, up 10 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 264 thousand during April 2008, down 4 percent from April 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2008 totaled 797 million, down slightly from April 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 665 million on May 1, 2008, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.87 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2008, up 3 percent from April 2007.

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

United States - Poultry certified wholesome during April 2008 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.76 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the amount certified in April 2007. The March 2008 revised certified total at 3.51 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from March 2007. The March revision represented an increase of 1.51 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during April 2008 was 5.04 billion pounds, up 10 percent from 4.59 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.30 billion pounds, up 9 percent from April 2007. Mature chickens, at 76.7 million pounds, were up 24 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 654 million pounds, up 12 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.0 million pounds, down 8 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 2008 averaged 5.59 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from April 2007. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.67 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 2008 averaged 29.4 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from April 2007.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 2008 totaled 15.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.31 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.32 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 47.5 million pounds, were 1.25 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 1.32 percent a year earlier.

CROP ACREAGE 'JUNE SURVEY RESULTS'

West Virginia - Winter wheat planted in West Virginia for 2008 is estimated at 12,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from 2007. The projected harvest for grain is 9,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from 2007.

Corn planted is estimated at 43,000 acres, down 7 percent, or 3,000 acres from last year. Growers expect to harvest 26,000 acres for grain, down 4 percent, or 1,000 acres from last year.

Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 19,000, up 27 percent, or 4,000 acres from 2007. Harvested acreage is projected at 18,000, up 29 percent, or 4,000 acres from 2007.

All hay harvested is forecast at 610,000 acres, up 2 percent, or 10,000 acres from last year. **Alfalfa hay** harvested is expected to total 30,000 acres, up 20 percent, or 5,000 acres from last year. **Other hay** harvested is expected to be 580,000 acres, up slightly, or 5,000 acres from last year's harvest. If the 580,000 acres of other hay is realized, it will be a new record high for West Virginia.

These estimates were based on results from the June 1, 2008, Agricultural Survey.

United States With 2007 Comparisons:

Corn planted for all purposes - 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from 2007.
- Biotechnology varieties as a percent of corn planted:
  - Bt - 17% of 2008 crop, 21% of 2007 crop;
  - Herbicide Resistant - 23% of 2008 crop, 24% of 2007 crop;
  - Stacked Gene - 40% of 2008 crop, 28% of 2007 crop;
  - All Biotech varieties - 80% of 2008 crop, 73% of 2007 crop.

Corn harvested for grain - 78.9 million acres, down 9 percent.
Winter wheat planted - 46.6 million acres, up 4 percent.
Winter wheat harvested for grain - 40.3 million acres, up 12 percent.
Oats planted - 3.5 million acres, down 8 percent.
Oats harvested for grain - 1.4 million acres, down 4 percent.
All tobacco harvested - 348,040 acres, down 2 percent.
Burley tobacco harvested - 96,450 acres, down 9 percent.
All hay for harvest - 60.4 million acres, down 2 percent.
Alfalfa hay for harvest - 20.8 million acres, down 4 percent.
Other hay for harvest - 39.7 million acres, down slightly.
Soybeans planted - 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent.
- Biotechnology varieties as a percent of all soybeans planted:
  - Herbicide Resistant only - 92% of 2008 crop, 91% of 2007 crop;
  - All Biotech varieties - 92% of 2008 crop, 91% of 2007 crop.

Soybeans for harvest - 72.1 million acres, up 15 percent.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Apples: Seven States were included in the 2007 survey: California, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington. **Nitrogen** was applied to 71 percent of the 2007 apple acres in the Program States at an average rate of 53 pounds per

crop year. **Phosphate** was applied to 24 percent of the planted acres, at an average rate of 36 pounds per acre per crop year. An average of 65 pounds per acre per crop year of **Potash** was applied to 34 percent of the bearing acreage. **Sulfur** was applied to 12 percent of the planted acres at an average rate of 27 pounds per acre per crop year.

Herbicides were applied to 61 percent of the apple bearing acreage in 2007 in the 7 Program States. The most utilized herbicide was **Glyphosate isopropylamine salt**, on 45 percent of the acreage at an average of 1.925 pounds per acre per crop year. The herbicides **Paraquat** and **Simazine** were a distant second, in terms of percent of acres treated, with 12 and 10 percent of the acres receiving an application, respectively. They were applied at an average rate of 1.440 and 1.843 pounds per acre per crop year, respectively.

Insecticides were applied to 97 percent of the surveyed acreage. The most commonly used insecticides were **Azinphos-methyl, Chlorpyrifos**, and **Petroleum** distillate on 62, 59, and 58 percent of the acreage, respectively. The average rate per application per crop year for the three most commonly applied insecticides were 2.045, 1.732, and 31.410 pounds per acre, respectively.

Fungicides were used on 91 percent of the acreage. **Mancozeb** was the most commonly applied fungicide with 37 percent of the bearing acreage being treated. It was applied at an average rate of 7.309 pounds per acre per crop year. **Myclobutanil** was applied to 36 percent of the bearing acres at an average rate of 0.191 pounds per acre per crop year. **Captan** was the third most commonly applied with 34 percent of the bearing acres treated. An average of 10.274 pounds per acre per crop year was applied.

Other Chemicals were used to treat 65 percent of the acreage. **Benzyladenine** was the most commonly utilized Other Chemical, applied to 23 percent of the acreage at an average rate of 0.043 pounds per acre per crop year; followed by **Gibberellins A4A7**, applied to 18 percent of the acreage at an average rate per crop year of 0.024 pounds per acre.

FARM LABOR

United States - There were 919,000 **hired workers** on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2008, down 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 700,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 219,000 workers.

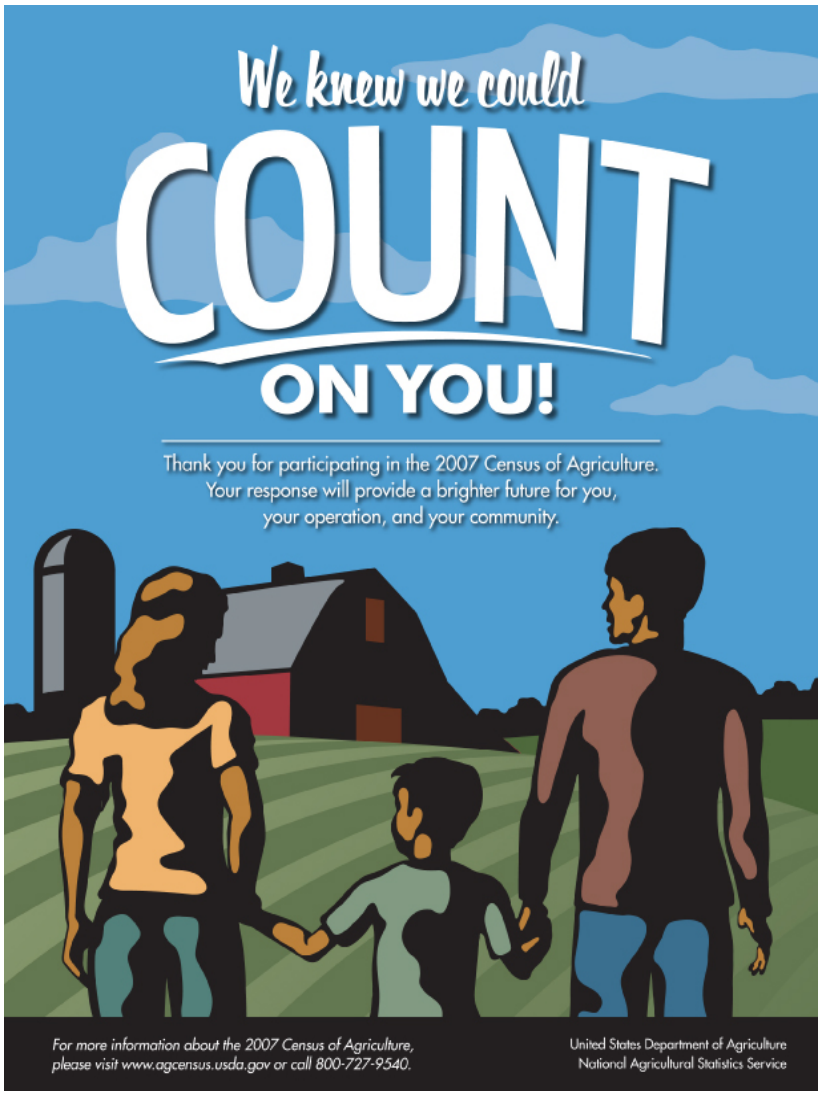
Farm operators paid their hired workers an **average wage** of $10.60 per hour during the April 2008 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $9.65 per hour, up 30 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned $10.32 per hour compared with $9.59 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $9.87 per hour, was up 45 cents from last year.

The **number of hours** worked averaged 41.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The **largest decreases in the number of hired workers** from last year occurred in California and in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. In California, planted acreage of cotton, dry beans, and sugar beets declined sharply from 2007. Therefore, the demand for field workers was considerably lower. Excessive rain and flooding in the Delta region curtailed most field activities and lessened the need for field workers. In the Southeast region, wet conditions and low soil temperatures delayed corn and cotton planting in Alabama and Georgia, reducing the demand for field workers. Snow and cold temperatures across most of the Mountain I region halted planting activity until late in the week, and calving and lambing were behind normal. These factors led to reduced demand for field and livestock workers. In the Southern Plains region, heavy rains in Oklahoma more than offset the drier conditions in Texas and delayed planting of row crops, resulting in fewer hired workers.

The **largest increases in the number of hired workers** from last year occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast I (New England and New York), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. Strong demand from poultry operations and from the nursery and greenhouse industries in the Appalachian I region caused hired worker numbers to be higher. In the Appalachian II region, strong demand from the equine and cattle industries led to an increase in hired workers. Last year's reference week weather in the Northeast I region was plagued by frigid temperatures and snow. A return to more normal weather patterns this year resulted in a greater need for hired workers. In the Pacific region, increased demand from fruit growers and from the nursery and greenhouse industries kept worker numbers above the previous year. Heavy snow in parts of the Northern Plains region caused livestock stress which led to more supplemental feeding and increased the need for hired workers.

Hired worker **wage rates** were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Southeast and Appalachian I regions. In the Mountain III and Corn Belt I regions, the higher wages were due to a larger proportion of salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed the average hourly wage higher. The wage increase in the Corn Belt II region was due to a smaller percentage of part time workers. In the Southeast and Appalachian I regions, the higher wages resulted from a higher proportion of nursery and greenhouse workers.



Thanks for your participation in the Census of Agriculture. West Virginia had one of the highest response rates in the nation.

We appreciate your cooperation in filling out the Census and the surveys we conduct throughout the year!

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